

**I. Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows with the following version of the claims in accordance with revised 37 CFR § 1.121.

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

5 3. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a distributed data processing system, the method comprising:  
configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

10 dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints; and

15 choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously specified as twin endpoints; and

20 associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:

retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint;

25 searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and

associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table.

30 5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 5 further comprising:

5 selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and

creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history.

10 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 further comprising:

retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;

15 searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint;

in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, obtaining a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and

20 determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables.

8. (Canceled).

25 9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A apparatus for managing a distributed data processing system, the apparatus comprising:

configuring means for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

discovering means for dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

designating means for designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints; and

first choosing means for choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously specified as twin endpoints; and

first associating means for associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

first retrieving means for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint;

first searching means for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and

second associating means for associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10 ~~12~~—further comprising:

first selecting means for selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and

first creating means for creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

second retrieving means for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;

second searching means for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint; first obtaining means for obtaining, in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and

determining means for determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use in a distributed data processing system for managing the distributed data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

5       instructions for configuring monitoring parameters for network interface cards within the distributed data processing system using a network management framework;

10       instructions for dynamically discovering a set of discovered endpoints within the distributed data processing system;

15       instructions for designating a plurality of discovered endpoints as mission critical endpoints; ~~and~~

20       instructions for choosing mission critical twin endpoints from a subset of discovered endpoints which have not been previously previously specified as twin endpoints; and

25       instructions for associating a mission critical twin endpoint with each mission critical endpoint, wherein a mission critical twin endpoint is a discovered endpoint that has a communication history with a mission critical endpoint with which the mission critical twin endpoint is being associated.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 further comprising:

30       instructions for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint;

      instructions for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with a mission critical endpoint; and

35       instructions for associating the discovered endpoint with the mission critical endpoint in response to finding the address associated with the mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 17 ~~19~~ further comprising:

instructions for selecting an endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints that has a most significant communication history with a particular mission critical endpoint; and

instructions for creating a mission critical twin association between the selected endpoint and the particular mission critical endpoint in response to a determination of the most significant communication history.

21. (Original) The computer program product of claim 20 further comprising:

instructions for retrieving an SNMP table from a discovered endpoint in the subset of discovered endpoints;

instructions for searching the SNMP table for an address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint;

instructions for obtaining, in response to finding the address associated with the particular mission critical endpoint in the SNMP table, a value from the SNMP table to be compared with values obtained from other retrieved SNMP tables; and

instructions for determining the most significant communication history based on a comparison of the values obtained from the retrieved SNMP tables.